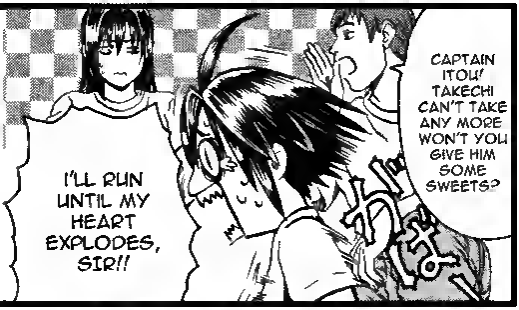
Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it.
-Old Testament, Proverbs 22:6-

"Whosoever desires constant success must change his conduct with the times."
-Niccolò Machiavelli-

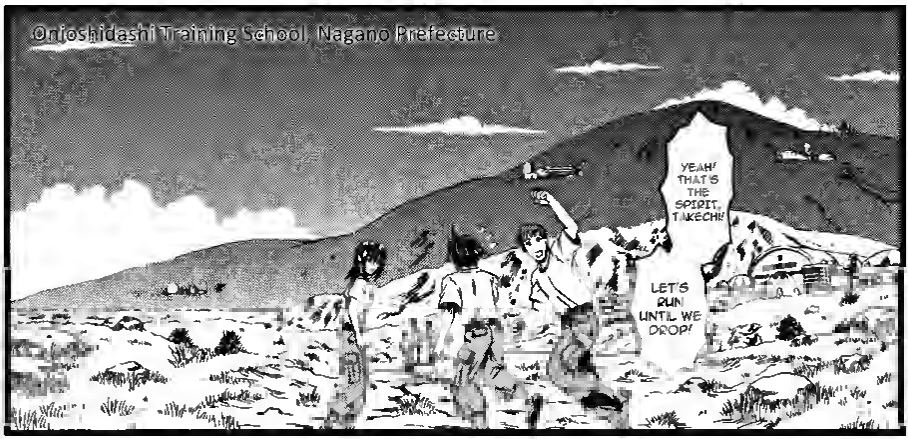
I still think I've come to the wrong place...
STAND UP! WHY ARE YOU TAKING A BREAK WITHOUT PERMISSION?
HEY TAKECHI! ARE YOU STILL ALIVE?

PHASE:3 Defense

WHAT A USELESS GUY...
THIS KIND OF HILL... 10 K! I HAVE TO RUN ALL THAT??
WHAT? SO YOU MEAN THAT...

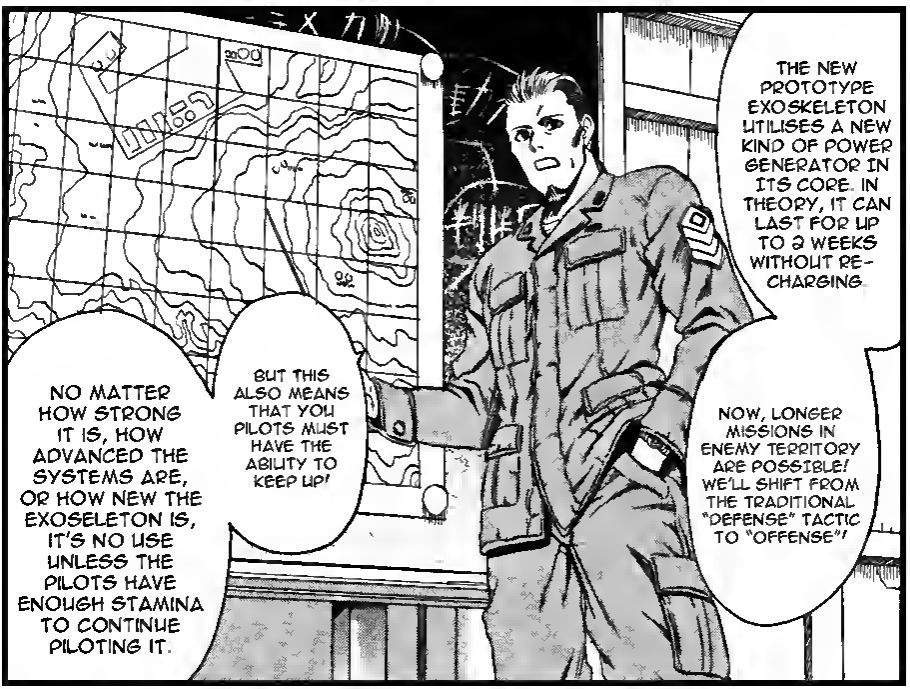

I'LL RUN UNTIL MY HEART EXPLODES, SIR!!
CAPTAIN ITOU! TAKECHI CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE WON'T YOU GIVE HIM SOME SWEETS?

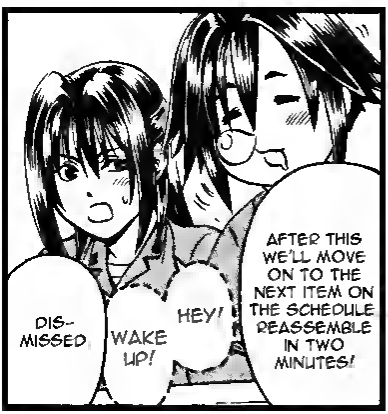
THIS LIGHT JOG DOESN'T EVEN COUNT AS TRAINING, MAN BUCKLE UP AND LET'S GO!
I CAN'T MOVE ANY-MORE NOT ONE MORE STEP
MY MIND IS FUZZY
DO YOU PLAN TO BE A BURDEN ON THE BATTLEFIELD, TOO?
STOP SLACKING OFF, YOU IDIOT!


Orioshidashi Training School, Nagano Prefecture
YEAH! THAT'S THE SPIRIT, TAKECHI!
LET'S RUN UNTIL WE DROP!

.....

FOR THE NEXT 4 WEEKS STARTING TODAY, YOU'LL HAVE FITNESS TRAINING IN THE MOUNTAINS.
DC NO.8
THAT WILL BE ALL!


THE NEW PROTOTYPE EXOSKELETON UTILISES A NEW KIND OF POWER GENERATOR IN ITS CORE. IN THEORY, IT CAN LAST FOR UP TO 2 WEEKS WITHOUT RE-CHARGING.
NOW, LONGER MISSIONS IN ENEMY TERRITORY ARE POSSIBLE! WE'LL SHIFT FROM THE TRADITIONAL "DEFENSE" TACTIC TO "OFFENSE"!
BUT THIS ALSO MEANS THAT YOU PILOTS MUST HAVE THE ABILITY TO KEEP UP!
NO MATTER HOW STRONG IT IS, HOW ADVANCED THE SYSTEMS ARE, OR HOW NEW THE EXOSELETON IS, IT'S NO USE UNLESS THE PILOTS HAVE ENOUGH STAMINA TO CONTINUE PILOTING IT.

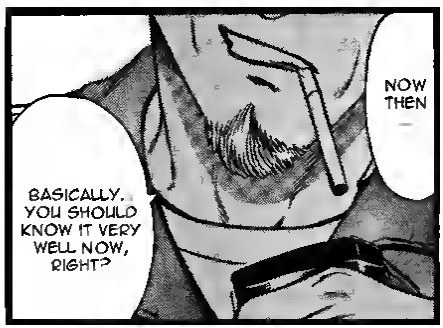

AFTER THIS WE'LL MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ITEM ON THE SCHEDULE REASSEMBLE IN TWO MINUTES!
HEY!
WAKE UP!
DIS-MISSED

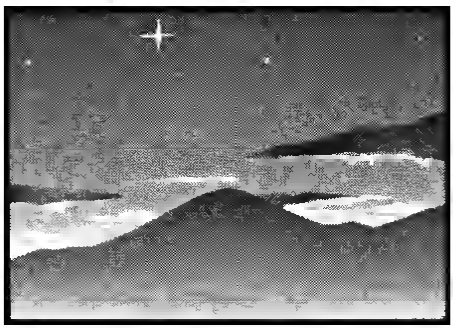
YOU WILL UNDERGO RIGOROUS TRAINING IN ORDER TO DEVELOP A BODY AND NERVES OF STEEL.
THE TIME YOU SPEND EATING AND SLEEPING WILL ALSO BE CUT DOWN!
IF YOU TAKE THIS LIGHTLY, YOU MAY LOSE YOUR LIFE. APPROACH THE TRAINING WITH THAT IN MIND.

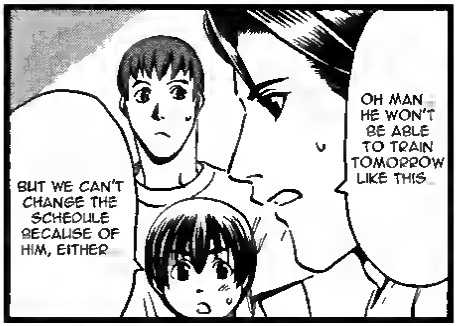
YOU CAN'T EVEN LIFT YOUR OWN WEIGHT?! FORGET BEING A SOLDIER, YOU'RE NOT EVEN WORTHY AS A LIVING BEING!
PUSHUPS AND SITUPS! 100 EACH, AND FINISH THE SET IN UNDER ONE MINUTE!
YOU! TSUKAHARA, MOVE IT!

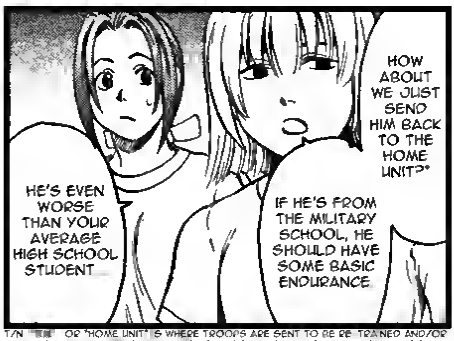
RUN AND ASESS THE SAFETY OF THE TERRAIN IN AN INSTANT! IF YOU HESITATE AND STOP YOUR FEET, IT'S OVER!
KEEP IT MOVING! DON'T STOP!!
TOMORROW YOU WILL RUN WITH 30 KILOGRAM WEIGHTS!
BALANCE AND RHYTHM! A SOLDIER'S FEET IS THEIR LIFE!!
DON'T LOOK DOWN! TSUKAHARA, WHAT KIND OF RUNNING IS THAT?!

THE ENEMY NEVER GETS FATIGUED! THEY DON'T HAVE ANY OPENINGS, AND THEY ATTACK IN GROUPS! YOU HAVE TO FIND A WEAKNESS BEFORE YOUR STAMINA RUNS OUT!
Smack Smack
Step Step
DON'T JUST DEFEND! ATTACK AND CONTROL THE PACE! DON'T STAND THERE AND LET YOUR OPPONENT ATTACK!
TAKE IT MORE SERIOUSLY, TSUKAHARA! DO YOU PLAN TO LIE THERE AND LET KUSUNOKI BEAT YOU?!

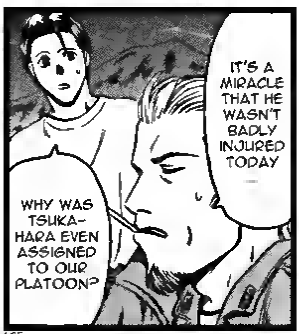

NOW THEN
BASICALLY, YOU SHOULD KNOW IT VERY WELL NOW, RIGHT?



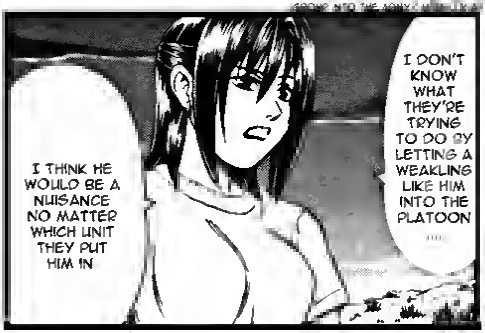


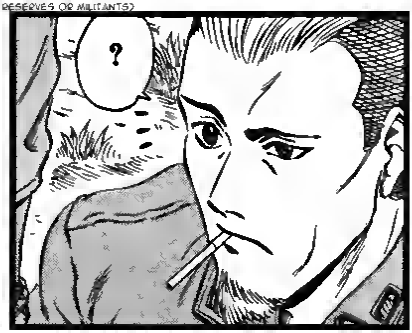

HOW ABOUT WE JUST SEND HIM BACK TO THE HOME UNIT?"
IF HE'S FROM THE MILITARY SCHOOL, HE SHOULD HAVE SOME BASIC ENDURANCE...
HE'S EVEN WORSE THAN YOUR AVERAGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT...

T/N "HOME UNIT" OR "HOME UNIT" IS WHERE TROOPS ARE SENT TO BE RE-TRAINED AND/OR RE-ASSIGNED. SHE'S SAYING HE'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE FIRST PLATOON



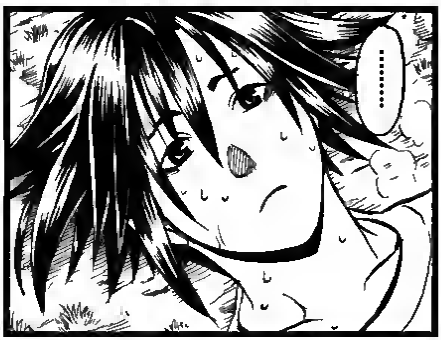
CONSCRIPTION = MANDATORY DRAFT OF ALL MALES OF AN AGE GROUP INTO THE ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, RESERVES OR MILITANTS?


I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TRYING TO DO BY LETTING A WEAKLING LIKE HIM INTO THE PLATOON.....
I THINK HE WOULD BE A NUISANCE NO MATTER WHICH UNIT THEY PUT HIM IN



WE COULD LOSE OUR LIVES BECAUSE OF THIS GUY'S INCOMPE-TENCE!
SO IT'S FINE AS LONG AS THEY SEND HIM AWAY?
WHAT ARE THEY TREATING THE ARMY AS?

HEY
.....
THAT'S GOING TOO FAR...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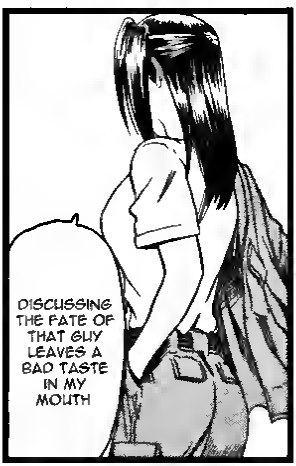
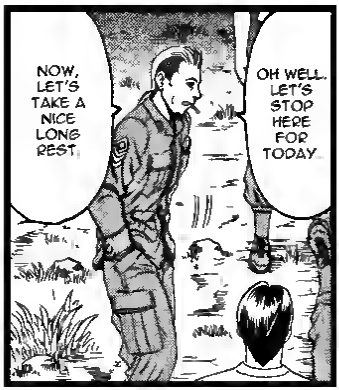

DISCUSSING THE FATE OF THAT GUY LEAVES A BAD TASTE IN MY MOUTH

?
TSUKUMO-KUN, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M GOING TO TRAIN BY MYSELF.

.....

.....

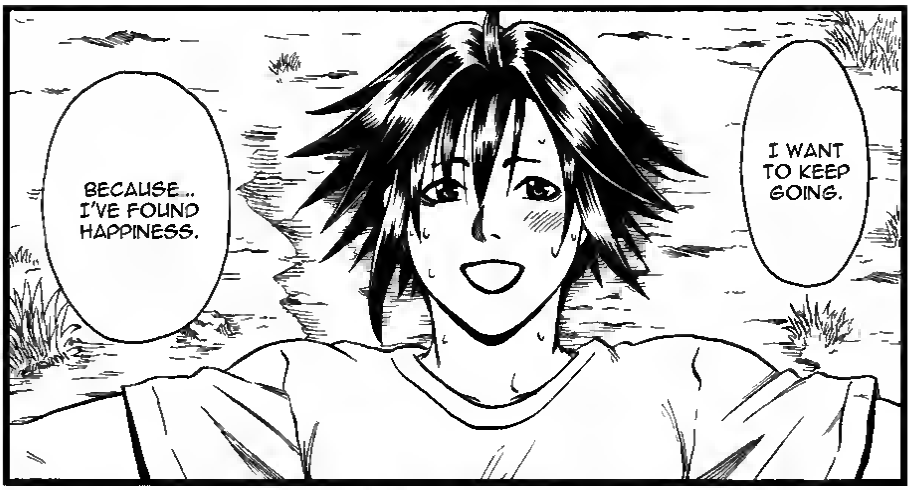

NOW, LET'S TAKE A NICE LONG REST.
OH WELL. LET'S STOP HERE FOR TODAY.

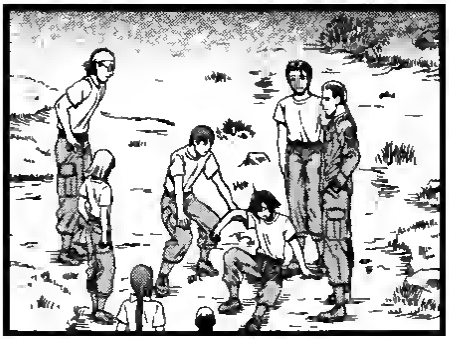
PHEW

!
MAN ...
ISHIKAWA... WHAT THE HECK IS THAT GUY THINKING?
DID MAJOR GENERAL ISHIKAWA ASSIGN TSUKAHARA -KUN TO OUR PLATOON?

USELESS PEOPLE LIKE HIM...
ARE WHAT I HATE THE MOST.

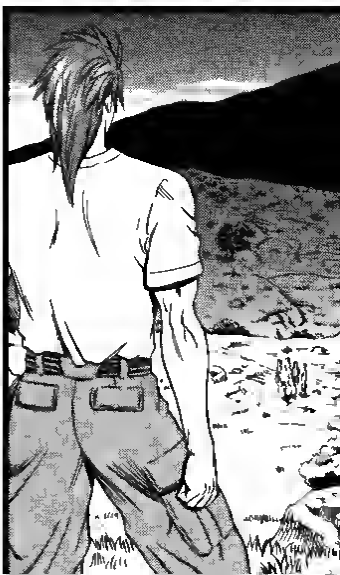
THE HIGHER UPS HAVE SAID THAT NO MATTER WHAT, YOU'VE GOTTA PULL YOUR OWN WEIGHT.
HEY, TSUKA-HARA!
YES?
.....
AHH.....
BUT THE REASON WHY HE'S IN THIS PLATOON IS LEVEL P5 SECRET... IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THEY'RE REALLY THINKING ABOUT CONSCRIPTION.
UNLIKE THE OTHERS, YOU DIDN'T WANT TO BE IN THIS PLATOON. IF YOU WANT, I CAN PUT A WORD IN WITH MY SUPERIORS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK...? DO YOU WANT TO KEEP GOING, OR DO YOU WANT TO QUIT?
I KNOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S BEEN TRYING TO SOLVE THE SHORTAGE OF TROOPS, BUT... EVEN SO, THIS IS WAY TOO DANGEROUS.
TO BE HONEST, I DON'T KNOW IF SOMEONE LIKE YOU CAN MAKE IT HERE.
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE MOUTAINS, AND... THIS TIME OF YEAR...
I THINK IT'LL BE A BIT CHILLY TOMORROW MORNING.
.....
THE STARS...
YOU CAN SEE THEM SO CLEARLY FROM HERE...
.....
HMM?
STARS.....

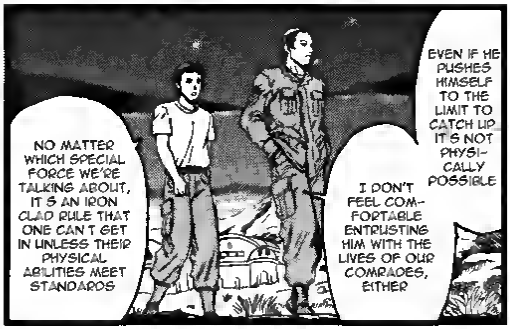

I WANT TO KEEP GOING.
BECAUSE... I'VE FOUND HAPPINESS.



.....

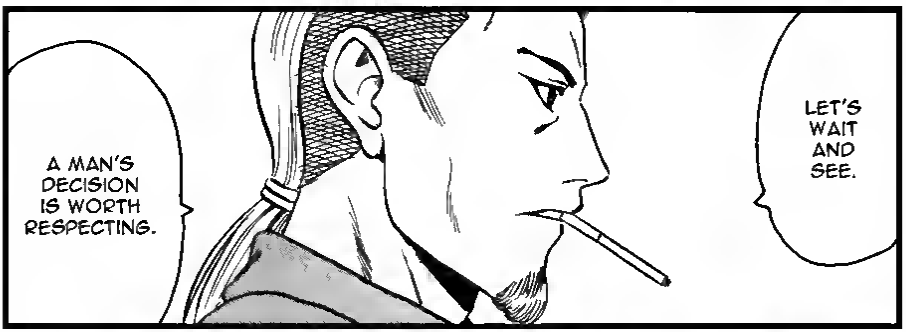
CAPTAIN NOGI.
MM.
EVERYONE HAS COMPLETED THEIR TRAINING FOR THE DAY.




NO MATTER WHICH SPECIAL FORCE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, IT'S AN IRON CLAD RULE THAT ONE CAN'T GET IN UNLESS THEIR PHYSICAL ABILITIES MEET STANDARDS
I DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE ENTRUSTING HIM WITH THE LIVES OF OUR COMRADES, EITHER
EVEN IF HE PUSHES HIMSELF TO THE LIMIT TO CATCH UP IT'S NOT PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE

I THINK SHE HAS A POINT
...ABOUT WHAT TSUKUMO-KUN SAID...

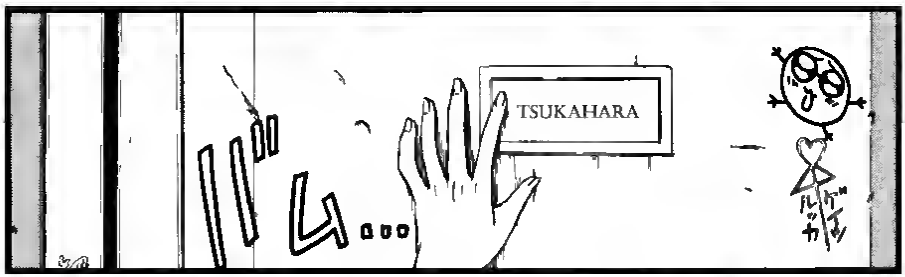
I THINK HE SHOULD GO THROUGH THE EXPERIENCE OF A NORMAL SOLDIER'S TRAINING FIRST
.....
AT THIS RATE, HE'LL DIE BEFORE HE MAKES IT TO THE BATTLE-FIELD...


A MAN'S DECISION IS WORTH RESPECTING.
LET'S WAIT AND SEE.

THAT LOOK IN HIS EYES...
?

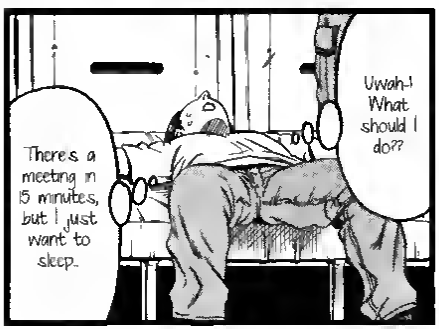
BUT-!

THE DESIRE TO "SURVIVE" WAS IN HIS EYES...
THAT GUY ...
JUST MIGHT BE THE TYPE THAT THE GRIM REAPER DESPISES.

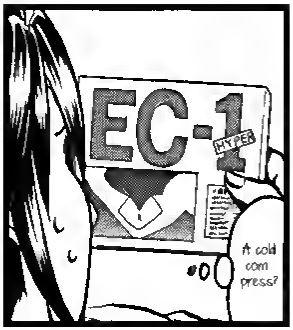

TSUKAHARA

SHOWING OFF IS GOOD AND ALL BUT...
BUT WHAT AM I GOING TO DO TOMORROW?

I don't even want to eat.
S-so tired

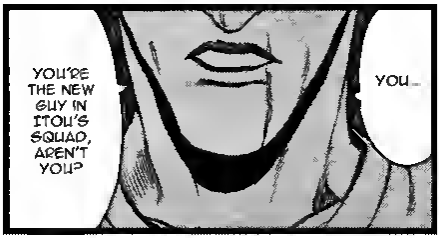

There's a meeting in 15 minutes, but I just want to sleep.
Uwah-! What should I do??

IT'LL BRING YOU SOME COMFORT, AT LEAST
PUT THAT ON WHERE IT FEELS HOT

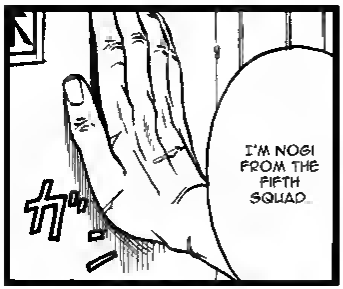

EC-1
HYPER
A cold com press?

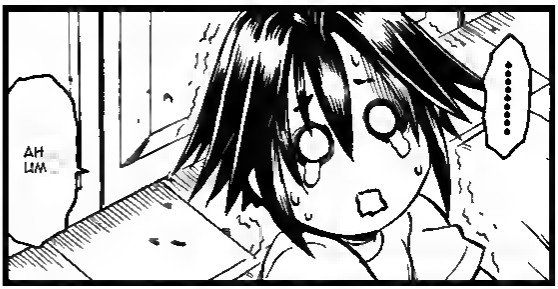
?
HERE

I don't recognize his voice
Someone from another squad?
OW
AH, THANK YOU


YOU'RE THE NEW GUY IN ITOU'S SQUAD, AREN'T YOU?
YOU

AHH, YES
MY NAME IS TSUKAHARA
NICE TO MEET YO-


I'M NOGI FROM THE FIFTH SQUAD
ガ

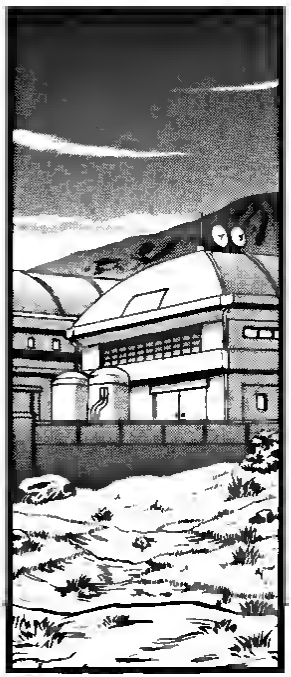

AH UM...
.....

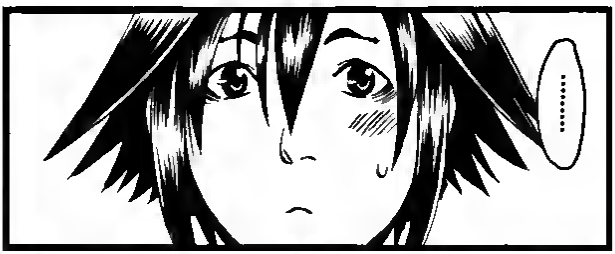
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE ABLE TO JOIN THAT ELITE SQUAD
A PASTY KID LIKE YOU...
SO A NAIVE IDIOT LIKE YOU ACTUALLY EXISTS IN THIS WORLD...

YOU'VE JUST JOINED UP...
BUT YOU'RE ALREADY HINDERING YOUR COMRADES?

YOU'VE GOT GUTS.
BUT,

DON'T LOSE...
NEWBIE.




.....

.....

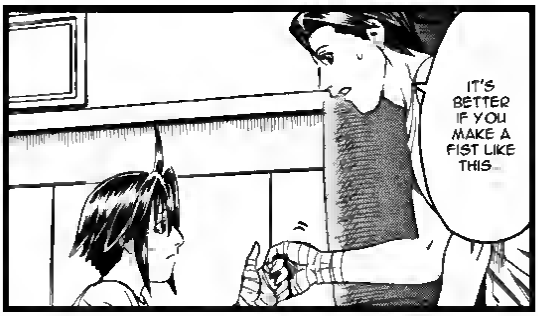
Rumor has it that he took the lives of eight men.

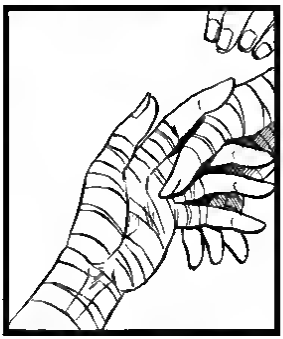
BEAUTIFUL MOVES THEY'RE SO SMOOTH, JUST LIKE A CAT'S
AMAZING..
AGAINST LIEUTENANT WAKAYAMA
YOU... IT'S EASY TO SEE THAT YOU HAVE ULTERIOR MOTIVES
THAT WOMAN ISN'T HUMAN

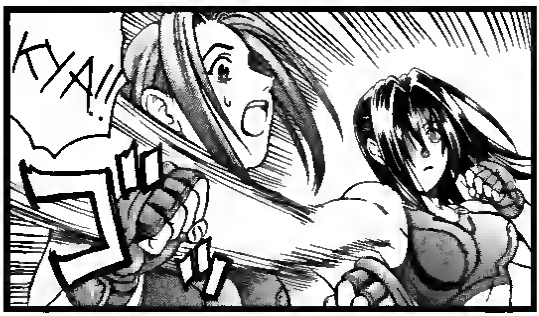
YOU'LL HURT YOUR WRIST LIKE THAT
AHH, THAT'S NOT RIGHT
.....

ボス

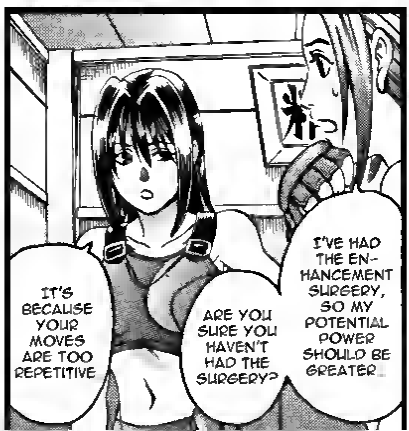
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S STUCK IT OUT FOR A WEEK ALREADY...
THEY'RE BOTH NEW-COMERS, BUT THE DIFFER-ENCE BETWEEN THEM IS...

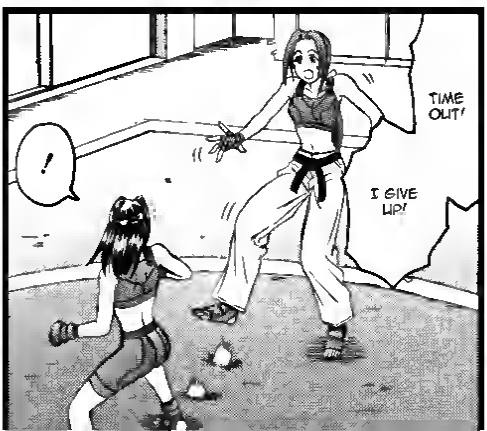

IT'S BETTER IF YOU MAKE A FIST LIKE THIS...

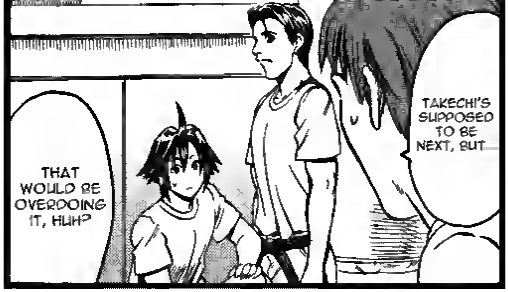


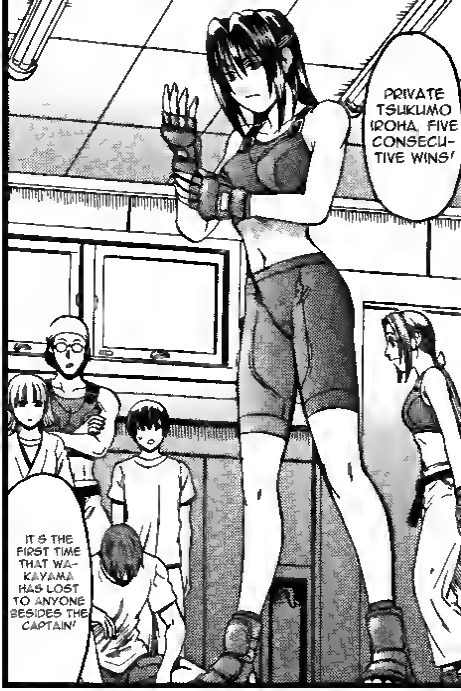

KYA!!
ゴッ!!

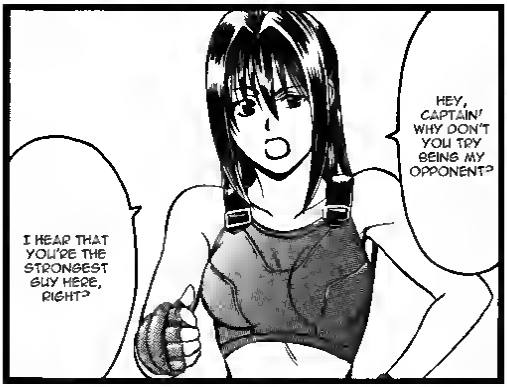
EH?
?
.....?
WHAT IS IT?
AH... NO, IT'S NOTHING.

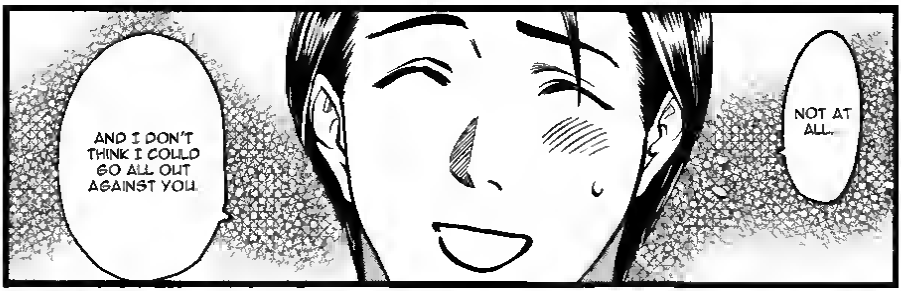

IT'S BECAUSE YOUR MOVES ARE TOO REPETITIVE
ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVEN'T HAD THE SURGERY?
I'VE HAD THE EN-HANCEMENT SURGERY, SO MY POTENTIAL POWER SHOULD BE GREATER


!
TIME OUT!
I GIVE UP!


TAKECHI'S SUPPOSED TO BE NEXT, BUT...
THAT WOULD BE OVERDOING IT, HUH?


PRIVATE TSUKUMO IROHA, FIVE CONSECUTIVE WINS!
IT'S THE FIRST TIME THAT WAKAYAMA HAS LOST TO ANYONE BESIDES THE CAPTAIN!


HEY, CAPTAIN! WHY DON'T YOU TRY BEING MY OPPONENT?
I HEAR THAT YOU'RE THE STRONGEST GUY HERE, RIGHT?


NOT AT ALL.
AND I DON'T THINK I COULD GO ALL OUT AGAINST YOU.

OF A NEW RECRUIT
let's go!

I DIDN'T THINK THAT THE NUMBER ONE HERE WOULD BE AFRAID

SO YOU'RE NOT WILLING
.....!

I NEVER SAID THAT I WOULDN'T FIGHT...
HUH?
BUT...
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING...?
.....
.....
THAT'S A SEPARATE PROBLEM I CAN'T BE A BURDEN
YOUR FATIGUE'S BEEN BUILDING UP FOR THE PAST WEEK. YOU MUST BE IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE
JUST GIVE UP, TSUKAHARA-KUN
YEAH
WELL, ALL RIGHT...
TAKECHI, YOU HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED, BUT YOUR FEET ARE ALREADY UNSTEADY...
HEY, DON'T DO THIS, YOU GUYS!
LET'S GO, TSUKAHARA YOU READY?

AH.
ビッ
……
UGH
ゲホ…
HAH
HAH
UWAH…
AH, AH…

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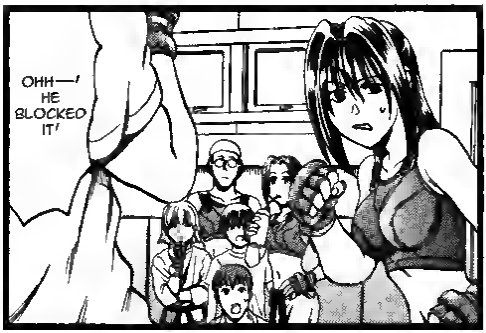
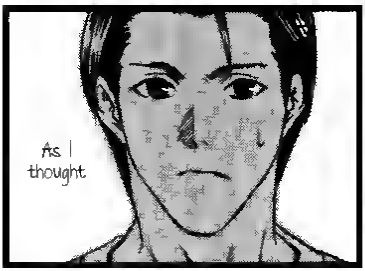
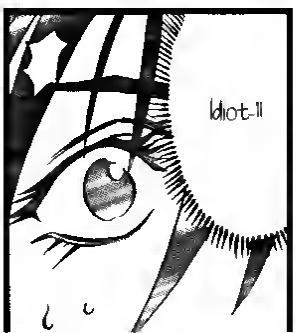
What the hell... he actually blocked that.
イラ イラ
Weaklings should just admit defeat right away, damn it

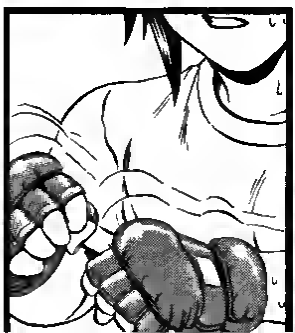

OHH—! HE BLOCKED IT!


As I thought

HAH
HAH
.....

Fine-then if-a-broken arm-is-what it-takes-to make-you give up
his eyes can follow her moves, but his body can't keep up


Idiot-!!



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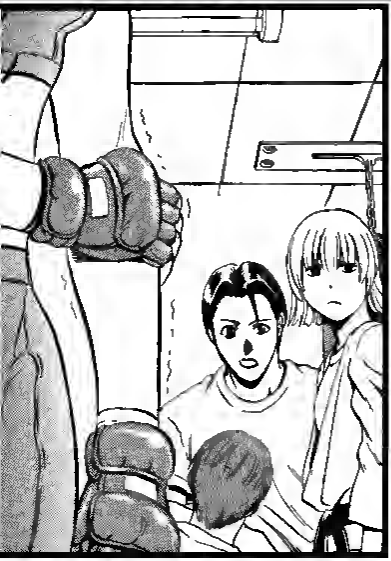
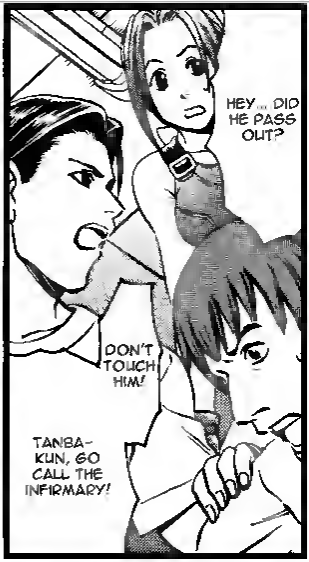
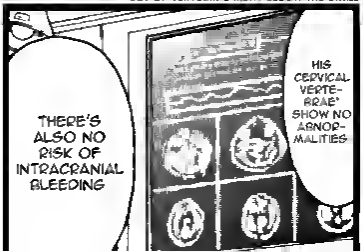
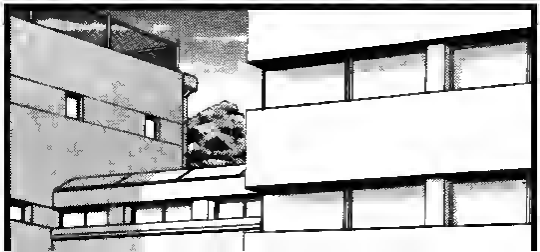
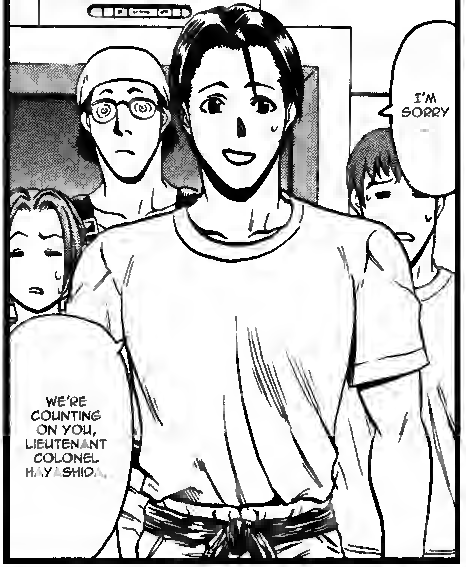




* SET OF VERTEBRAE RIGHT BELOW THE SKULL

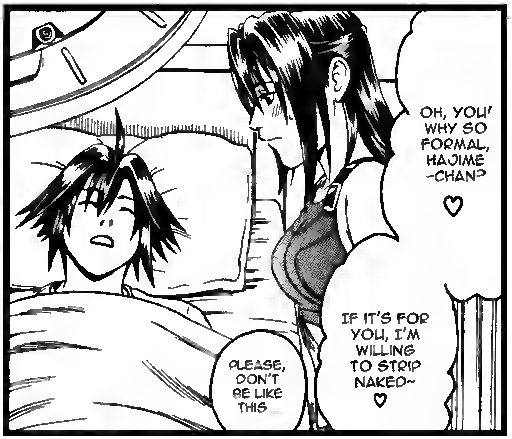




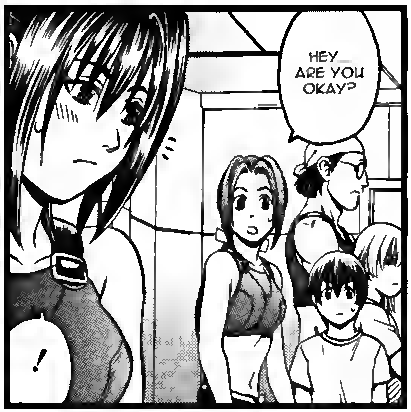

I'M SORRY
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, LIEUTENANT COLONEL HAYASHIDA

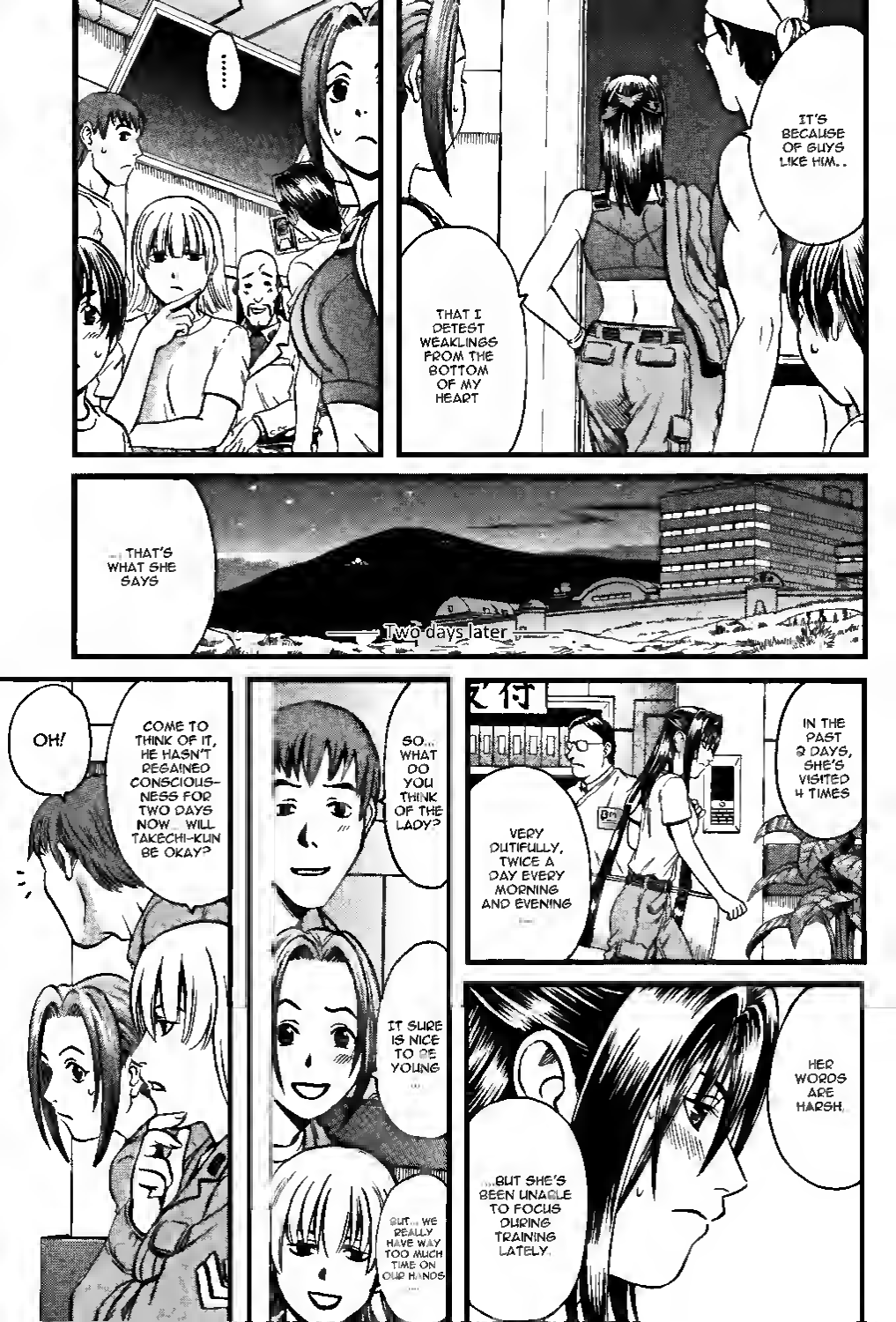
HOWEVER, HE DID LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS. LET'S DO SOME FURTHER TESTS
IT'LL BE A WHILE UNTIL HE WAKES UP, BUT YOU CAN STOP WORRYING FOR NOW.

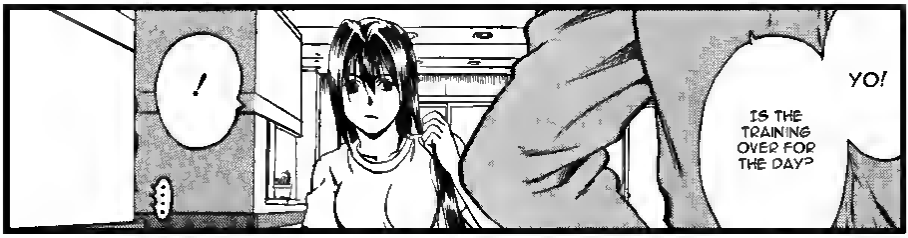
……

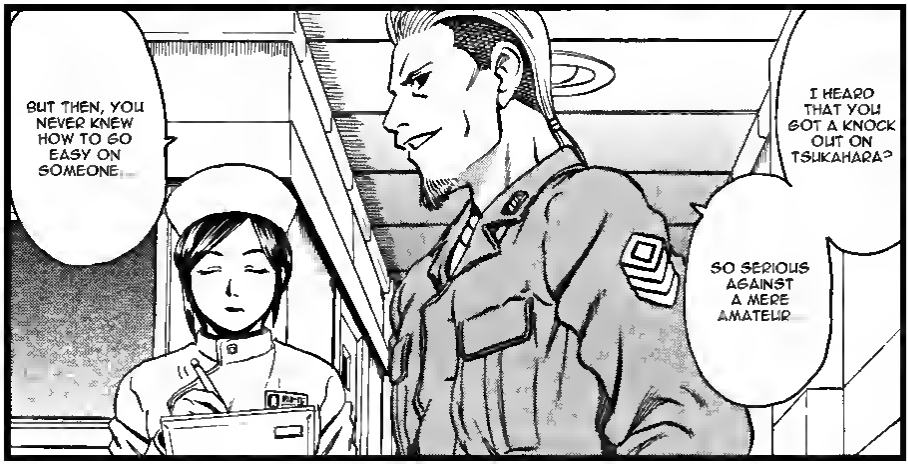

OH, YOU' WHY SO FORMAL, HAJIME -CHAN?
♡
IF IT'S FOR YOU, I'M WILLING TO STRIP NAKED~
♡
PLEASE, DON'T BE LIKE THIS

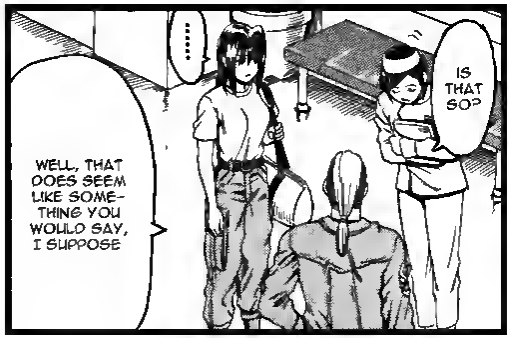
TODAY'S TRAINING IS OVER, RIGHT?
I'M HEADING BACK
B-BUT…

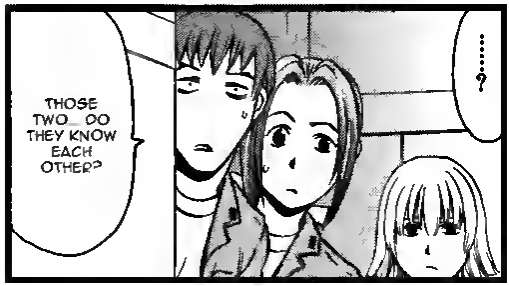

HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?
!

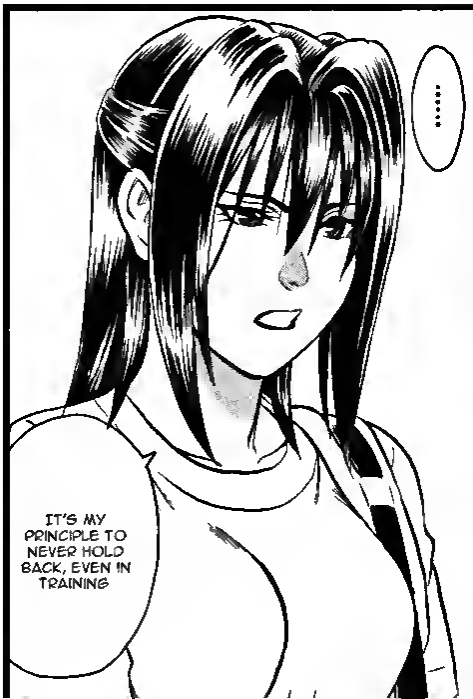

.....
IT'S BECAUSE OF GUYS LIKE HIM..
THAT I DETEST WEAKLINGS FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART
...THAT'S WHAT SHE SAYS
Two days later
OH!
COME TO THINK OF IT, HE HASN'T REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS FOR TWO DAYS NOW... WILL TAKECHI-KUN BE OKAY?
SO... WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE LADY?
IT SURE IS NICE TO BE YOUNG...
BUT... WE REALLY HAVE WAY TOO MUCH TIME ON OUR HANDS...
VERY DUTIFULLY, TWICE A DAY EVERY MORNING AND EVENING...
IN THE PAST 2 DAYS, SHE'S VISITED 4 TIMES
HER WORDS ARE HARSH.
...BUT SHE'S BEEN UNABLE TO FOCUS DURING TRAINING LATELY.


!
YO!
IS THE TRAINING OVER FOR THE DAY?


BUT THEN, YOU NEVER KNEW HOW TO GO EASY ON SOMEONE...
I HEARD THAT YOU GOT A KNOCK OUT ON TSUKAHARA?
SO SERIOUS AGAINST A MERE AMATEUR


.....
WELL, THAT DOES SEEM LIKE SOMETHING YOU WOULD SAY, I SUPPOSE
IS THAT SO?


THOSE TWO... DO THEY KNOW EACH OTHER?
.....?

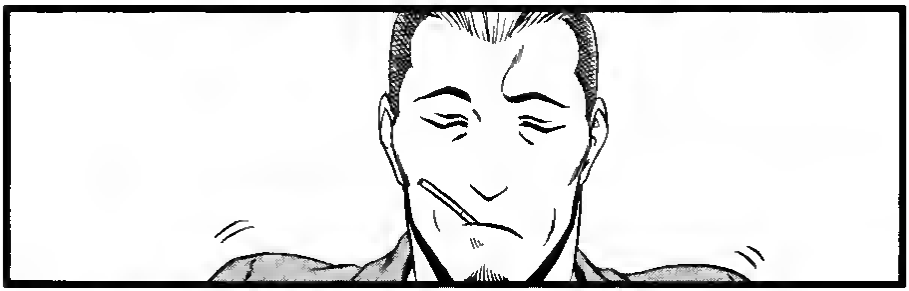

.....
IT'S MY PRINCIPLE TO NEVER HOLD BACK, EVEN IN TRAINING

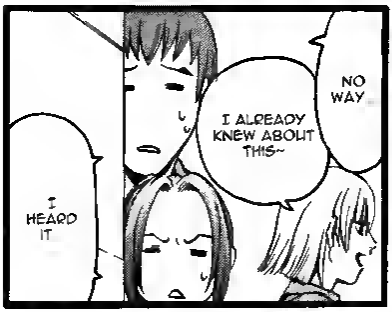
YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER...
THEY WERE AGAINST THIS, WEREN'T THEY?
YES, NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME
THERE ARE SOME THINGS I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF, AND THEN I'D LIKE TO GET SOME REST
SO WHY DID HITOMI-
ARE YOU TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH ME?
YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THIS
I HEARD YOU EVEN DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL.

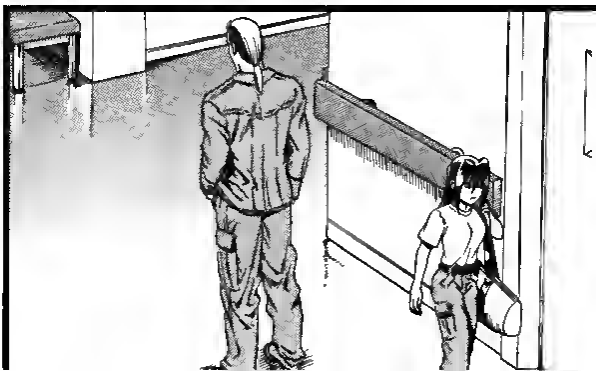
T/N: HITOMI IS WRITTEN WITH 瞳 (15) INSTEAD OF THE COMMON 瞳/眸, SUGGESTING SOME RELATION TO POHA (58)

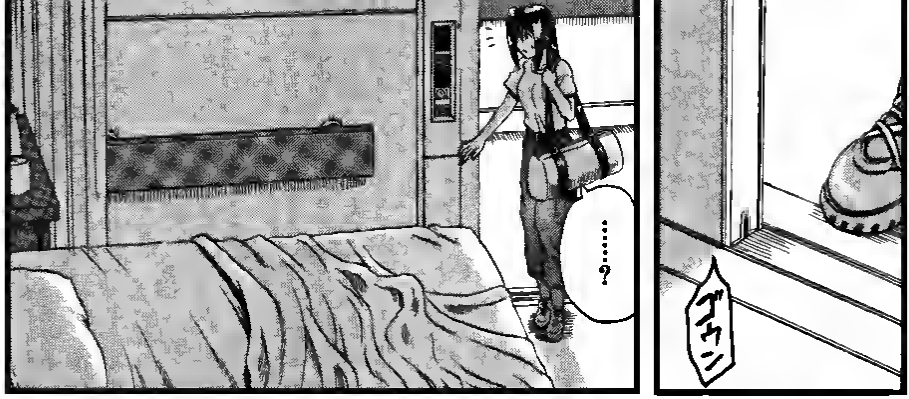
DON'T YOU DARE SAY THAT NAME!
COLONEL KAMINAGA, YOU'RE MY SUPERIOR
AS A SOLDIER, IT IS MY DUTY TO ACCEPT ANY ORDER YOU GIVE ME HOWEVER
?
.....

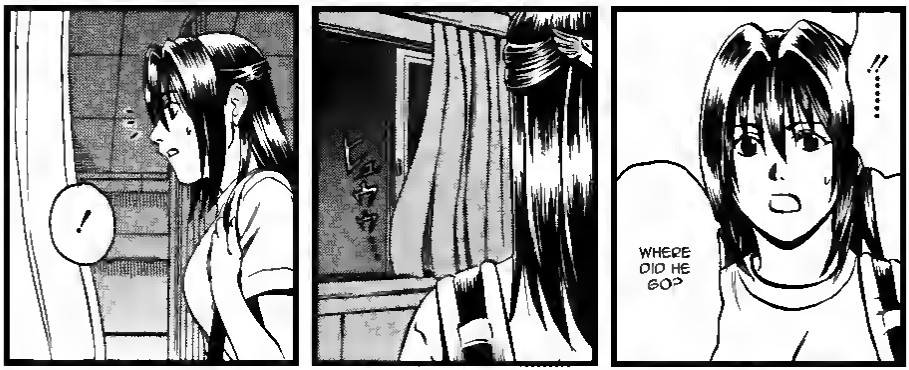
PLEASE DON'T TRY TO ACT LIKE A FATHER NOW.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO RESIST THE URGE TO KILL YOU.




NO WAY
I ALREADY KNEW ABOUT THIS~
I HEARD IT




……?
ガチャ

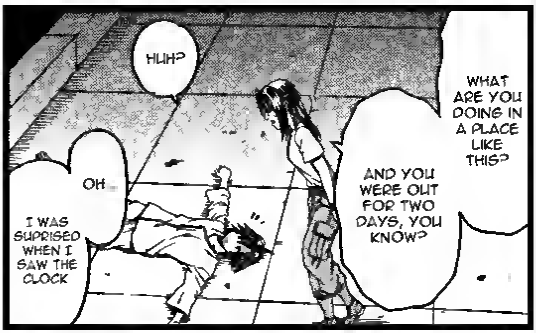

!
!!……
WHERE DID HE GO?

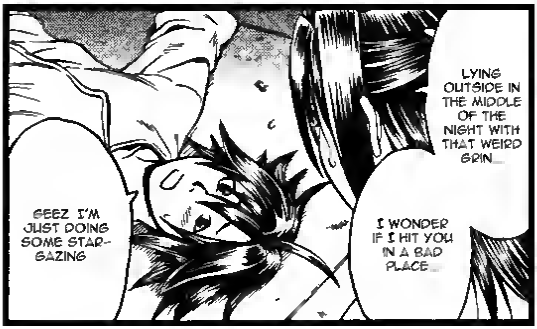
Tsuka-hara-!!

Don't tell me he's dead..
What's he doing here?

He must've regained consciousness
But...

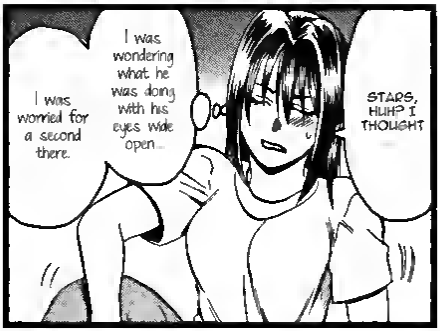
ぐるぐる


HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
AND YOU WERE OUT FOR TWO DAYS, YOU KNOW?
OH...
I WAS SUPRISED WHEN I SAW THE CLOCK


LYING OUTSIDE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT WITH THAT WEIRD GRIN...
I WONDER IF I HIT YOU IN A BAD PLACE...
GEEZ I'M JUST DOING SOME STAR-GAZING

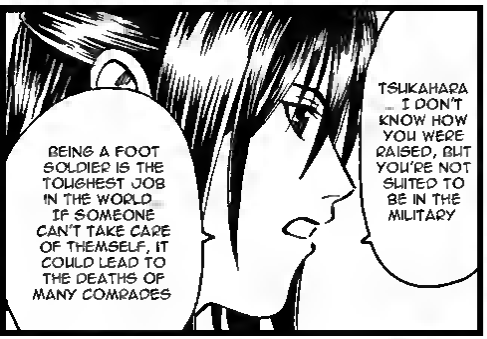
Scary-!!
AH.
TSUKUMO -SAN...

No I wasn't. "worried" is a bit.
?

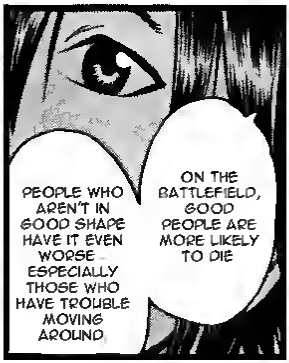

I was wondering what he was doing with his eyes wide open...
I was worried for a second there.
STARS, HUH? I THOUGHT

.....

.....
AH... I'M NOT GOING TO APOLOGIZE, OKAY?


TSUKAHARA... I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU WERE RAISED, BUT YOU'RE NOT SUITED TO BE IN THE MILITARY
BEING A FOOT SOLDIER IS THE TOUGHEST JOB IN THE WORLD... IF SOMEONE CAN'T TAKE CARE OF THEMSELF, IT COULD LEAD TO THE DEATHS OF MANY COMRADES

IT'S FINE IF IT'S JUST ONE PERSON, BUT TO LET THE PEOPLE WHO TRIED TO HELP YOU DIE...
THAT'S NO GOOD, YOU KNOW?


ON THE BATTLEFIELD, GOOD PEOPLE ARE MORE LIKELY TO DIE
PEOPLE WHO AREN'T IN GOOD SHAPE HAVE IT EVEN WORSE... ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE TROUBLE MOVING AROUND.

YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON...
I CAN SEE THAT, BUT...

HEY, TSUKA-HARA...
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE UP NOW?
YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE IN SUCH A MEANINGLESS WAY, DO YOU?

WHY DON'T YOU CHOOSE TO END IT HERE?
.....

HALLEY'S COMET..
YOU-

NO WAY.
.....

...IT'S ONCE EVERY 76 YEARS.
THE IKEYA -ZHANG COMET...
CAN BE SEEN ONCE EVERY 366 YEARS...
BESIDES THESE TWO, THERE ARE MANY MORE APERIODIC COMETS CIRCLING THE SKIES.

THERE ARE...
ONLY 19 YEARS LEFT...

?
I CAN'T GIVE UP NOW.
IT'S THE BIGGEST ONE IN HISTORY.

Eleven Soul

presented by

Kakera Translations

MANGA SYNDROME

Translator: Kakera

Cleaner: Rebel

Typesetter: Kakera

Proofreader: Shorejuu

QCer: Kakera

The tsundere appears.

-Kakera